

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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P 190600Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4846

S E C R E T TEHRAN 8918

EXDIS

DEPT PASS: USCINCEUR, CINCPAC, CNO, JCS, CINCPACFLT

E.O. 115,8/ &\$

5-& : MARR, IO, IR

SUBJ: INDIAN OCEAN TASK GROUP

REF: A. STATE 245195 B. TEHRAN 8811

SUMMARY: NIOC WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPLY FUEL FOR TASK GROUP FROM IRANIAN OIL ALLOCATION, AT LEAST THROUGH JANUARY 5 DELIVERY AND POSSIBLY FOR JANUARY 30 DELIVERY AS WELL. IRANIAN EXPORT PRICES WILL BE CHARGED FOR ALL DELIVERIES MADE SINCE BEGINNING OF TASK GROUP SUPPLY OPERATION.

3. EMBOFFS AND ALUSNA MET DEC 18 WITH DR MINA OF NIOC TO DISCUSS SUPPLY AND PRICES OF FUEL OIL FOR TASK GROUP. FOLLOWING RECEIPT CINCPAC 102214Z, ALUSNA HAD GIVEN NIOC REQUEST FOR LIFTINGS ON JANUARY 5 AND 30 BY SS TROJAN.

2. SUPPLY: WE TOLD MINA AMERICAN COMPANIES WERE PREPARED TO MAKE AVAILABLE FUTURE SUPPLIES FOR TASK GROUP. HE REPLIED THAT NIOC HAD ALREADY MADE PLANS TO SUPPLY JANUARY 5 LIFTING FROM ITS OWN ALL-OCATION. ACCORDINGLY, THERE NO NEED TO SHIFT TO COMPANIES FOR THAT DELIVERY. IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE, HE SAID, THAT NIOC WOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO SUPPLY JANUARY 30 REQUIREMENT. NIOC WOULD INFORM EMBASSY BY EARLY JANUARY IF IT WERE ABLE TO DO SO. IF NOT, WE COULD TURN

TO COMPANIES FOR SUPPLIES. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO INFORM

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COMPANIES.

3. PRICES: REFERRING TO ROUGH PRICE ESTIMATES GIVEN ALUSNA ON NOV 20 AND HIGHER PRICES QUOTED ON DEC 13 FOR NOVEMBER DELIVERIES (REF B), WE SAID WE WISHED TO KNOW BASIS FOR DETERMINATION OF **GHER PRICES. WE ALSO REFERRED TO COURT MINISTER ALAM'S INDICATION TO AMBASSADOR THAT NOVEMBER SUPPLIES WOULD BE CHARGED AT MODEST RATE WHILE LATER PRICES WOULD BE QUOTED ON BASIS OF CURRENT INTERNATIONAL MARKET RATES. MINA EXPLAINED THAT FOLLOWING LAST

MEETING WITH EMBOFFS, HE HAD CHECKED WITH MINISTRY OF COURT AND BEEN TOLD THAT NIOC SHOULD CHARGE IRANIAN EXPORT PRICE FOR ALL FUEL SUPPLIED TO TASK GRUP; THAT IS, THERE SHOULD BE NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN PRICE CHARGED IN NOVEMBER AND SUBSEQUENT MONTHS EXCEPT TO REFLECT CHANGES IN IRANIAN EXPORT RATE IN RESPONSE TO MARKET CONDITIONS. MINA POINTED OUT THAT UNDER THAT ARRANGEMENT USN WOULD BENEFIT FROM MUCH LOWER CHARGES THAN IT WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE TO PAY FOR BUNKERING AT CURRENT PERSIAN GULF PRITES. RATES OFFERED USN WERE ALSO MUCH LOWER THAN THOSE CHARGED INTERNATIONALLY. HE INDICATED THAT PRICES CHARGED FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY DELIVERIES WOULD NOT BE GREATLY DIFFERENT FROM THOSE CHARGED IN NOVEMBER. US COMMENT: WE FEEL THAT IN VIEW OF WORLD MARKET CONDITIONS WE ARE BEING TREATED FAIRLY BY NIOC IN THIS ARRANGEMENT. IN ANY EVENT, WE HAVE NO GROUNDS FOR ARGUMENT IF WORLD PRICES SKYROCKET AND THE IRANIAN EXPORT PRICE IS PULLED MUCH HIGHER THAN MINA INDICATED. HELMS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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NNN

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